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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LAND USE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Section 46-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:  
3           "**§46-4 County zoning.** (a) This section and any  
4 ordinance, rule, or regulation adopted in accordance with this  
5 section shall apply to lands not contained within the [~~forest~~  
6 ~~reserve boundaries as established on January 31, 1957, or as~~  
7 ~~subsequently amended~~] conservation district.

8           Zoning in all counties shall be accomplished within the  
9 framework of a long-range, comprehensive general plan prepared  
10 [~~or being prepared~~] to guide the overall future development of  
11 the county. Zoning shall be one of the tools available to the  
12 county to put the general plan into effect in an orderly manner.  
13 Zoning in the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai means the  
14 establishment of districts of such number, shape, and area, and  
15 the adoption of regulations for each district to carry out the  
16 purposes of this section. In establishing or regulating the  
17 districts, full consideration shall be given to all available  
18 data as to soil classification and physical use capabilities of



1 the land to allow and encourage the most beneficial use of the  
2 land consonant with good zoning practices. The zoning power  
3 granted herein shall be exercised by ordinance [~~which~~] that may  
4 relate to:

- 5 (1) The areas within which agriculture, forestry,  
6 industry, trade, and business may be conducted;
- 7 (2) The areas in which residential uses may be regulated  
8 or prohibited;
- 9 (3) The areas bordering natural watercourses, channels,  
10 and streams, in which trades or industries, filling or  
11 dumping, erection of structures, and the location of  
12 buildings may be prohibited or restricted;
- 13 (4) The areas in which particular uses may be subjected to  
14 special restrictions;
- 15 (5) The location of buildings and structures designed for  
16 specific uses and designation of uses for which  
17 buildings and structures may not be used or altered;
- 18 (6) The location, height, [~~bulk,~~] floor to area ratio,  
19 number of stories, and size of buildings and other  
20 structures;
- 21 (7) The location of roads, schools, and recreation areas;
- 22 (8) Building setback lines and future street lines;



- 1 (9) The density and distribution of population;
- 2 (10) The percentage of a lot that may be occupied, size of
- 3 yards, courts, and other open spaces;
- 4 (11) Minimum and maximum lot sizes; and
- 5 (12) Other regulations the [~~boards or city council find~~]
- 6 council of the county finds necessary and proper to
- 7 permit and encourage the orderly development of land
- 8 resources within their jurisdictions.

9 The council of any county shall prescribe rules,  
10 regulations, and administrative procedures and provide personnel  
11 it finds necessary to enforce this section and any ordinance  
12 enacted in accordance with this section. The ordinances may be  
13 enforced by appropriate fines and penalties, civil or criminal,  
14 or by court order at the suit of the county or the owner or  
15 owners of real estate directly affected by the ordinances.

16 Any civil fine or penalty provided by ordinance under this  
17 section may be imposed by the district court, or by the zoning  
18 agency after an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to chapter  
19 91. The proceeding shall not be a prerequisite for any  
20 injunctive relief ordered by the circuit court.

21 Nothing in this section shall invalidate any zoning  
22 ordinance or regulation adopted by any county or other agency of



1 government pursuant to the statutes in effect prior to July 1,  
2 1957.

3 The powers granted [~~herein~~] in this section shall be  
4 liberally construed in favor of the county exercising them, and  
5 in such a manner as to promote the orderly development of each  
6 county [~~or city and county~~] in accordance with a long-range,  
7 comprehensive general plan to ensure the greatest benefit for  
8 the State as a whole. This section shall not be construed to  
9 limit or repeal any powers of any county to achieve these ends  
10 through zoning and building regulations, except insofar as  
11 [~~forest and water reserve zones~~] the conservation districts are  
12 concerned and as provided in subsections (c) [~~and~~], (d) [~~and~~], and  
13 (h).

14 Neither this section nor any ordinance enacted pursuant to  
15 this section shall prohibit the continued lawful use of any  
16 building or premises for any trade, industrial, residential,  
17 agricultural, or other purpose for which the building or  
18 premises is used at the time this section or the ordinance takes  
19 effect; provided that a zoning ordinance may provide for  
20 elimination of nonconforming uses as the uses are discontinued,  
21 or for the amortization or phasing out of nonconforming uses or  
22 signs over a reasonable period of time in commercial,



1 industrial, resort, and apartment zoned areas only. In no event  
2 shall [~~such~~] the amortization or phasing out of nonconforming  
3 uses apply to any existing building or premises used for  
4 residential (single-family or duplex) or agricultural uses.  
5 Nothing in this section shall affect or impair the powers and  
6 duties of the director of transportation as set forth in chapter  
7 262.

8 (b) Any final order of a zoning agency established under  
9 this section may be appealed to the circuit court of the circuit  
10 in which the land in question is found. The appeal shall be in  
11 accordance with the Hawaii rules of civil procedure.

12 (c) Each county may adopt reasonable standards to allow  
13 the construction of two single-family dwelling units on any lot  
14 where a residential dwelling unit is permitted.

15 (d) Neither this section nor any other law, county  
16 ordinance, or rule shall prohibit group living in facilities  
17 with eight or fewer residents and that are licensed by the State  
18 as provided for under section 321-15.6, or in an intermediate  
19 care facility/mental retardation-community for persons,  
20 including mentally ill, elder, disabled, developmentally  
21 disabled, or totally disabled persons, who are not related to  
22 the home operator or facility staff; provided that those group



1 living facilities meet all applicable county requirements not  
2 inconsistent with the intent of this subsection and including  
3 building height, setback, maximum lot coverage, parking, and  
4 floor area requirements.

5 (e) No permit shall be issued by a county agency for the  
6 operation of a halfway house, a clean and sober home, or a drug  
7 rehabilitation home unless a public informational meeting is  
8 first held in the affected community. The State shall provide  
9 notification and access to relevant information, as required,  
10 under chapter 846E.

11 A clean and sober home shall be considered a residential  
12 use of property and shall be a permitted or conditional use in  
13 residentially designated zones, including but not limited to  
14 zones for single-family dwellings.

15 (f) For purposes of this section:

16 "Clean and sober home" means a house that is operated  
17 pursuant to a program designed to provide a stable environment  
18 of clean and sober living conditions to sustain recovery and  
19 that is shared by unrelated adult persons who:

- 20 (1) Are recovering from substance abuse;  
21 (2) Share household expenses; and



1           (3) Do not require twenty-four-hour supervision,  
2           rehabilitation, or therapeutic services or care in the  
3           home or on the premises. The home shall meet all  
4           applicable laws, codes, and rules of the counties and  
5           State.

6           "Developmentally disabled person" means a person suffering  
7           from developmental disabilities as defined under section 333F-1.

8           "Disabled person" means a person with a disability as  
9           defined under section 515-2.

10          "Drug rehabilitation home" means:

11          (1) A residential treatment facility that provides a  
12          therapeutic residential program for care, diagnosis,  
13          treatment, or rehabilitation for socially or  
14          emotionally distressed persons, mentally ill persons,  
15          persons suffering from substance abuse, and  
16          developmentally disabled persons; or

17          (2) A supervised living arrangement that provides mental  
18          health services, substance abuse services, or  
19          supportive services for individuals or families who do  
20          not need the structure of a special treatment facility  
21          and are transitioning to independent living;



1 provided that drug rehabilitation homes shall not include  
2 halfway houses or clean and sober homes.

3 "Elder" means an elder as defined under section 201G-1.

4 "Halfway house" is defined as a group living facility for  
5 people who:

6 (1) Have been released or are under supervised release  
7 from a correctional facility;

8 (2) Have been released from a mental health treatment  
9 facility; or

10 (3) Are receiving substance abuse or sex offender  
11 treatment; and

12 are housed to participate in programs that help them readjust to  
13 living in the community.

14 "Intermediate care facility/mental retardation-community"  
15 means as an identifiable unit providing residence and care for  
16 eight or fewer mentally retarded individuals. Its primary  
17 purpose is the provision of health, social, and rehabilitation  
18 services to the mentally retarded through an individually  
19 designed active treatment program for each resident. No person  
20 who is predominantly confined to bed shall be admitted as a  
21 resident of such a facility.



1 "Mental health treatment facility" means a psychiatric  
2 facility or special treatment facility as defined under section  
3 334-1.

4 "Mentally ill person" has the same meaning as defined under  
5 section 334-1.

6 "Totally disabled person" means a "person totally disabled"  
7 as defined under section 235-1.

8 "Treatment program" means a "substance abuse program" or  
9 "treatment program", as those terms are defined under section  
10 353G-2.

11 (g) Neither this section nor any other law, county  
12 ordinance, or rule shall prohibit the use of land for employee  
13 housing and community buildings in plantation community  
14 subdivisions as defined in section 205-4.5(a)(12); in addition,  
15 no zoning ordinance shall provide for elimination, amortization,  
16 or phasing out of plantation community subdivisions as a  
17 nonconforming use.

18 (h) Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, no county,  
19 by ordinance or private agreement, may permit any use in the  
20 agricultural district, as described in section 205-2, other than  
21 a permissible use pursuant to section 205-4.5."



# H.B. NO. 015

1 SECTION 2. Section 205-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) Except as herein provided, the powers granted to  
4 counties under section 46-4 shall govern the zoning within the  
5 districts, other than in conservation districts[-]; provided  
6 that the counties shall not permit any use in the agricultural  
7 district other than those permissible uses set forth in section  
8 205-4.5. Conservation districts shall be governed by the  
9 department of land and natural resources pursuant to chapter  
10 183C.

11 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
12 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
13 begun, before its effective date.

14 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.  
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INTRODUCED BY:

*Cindy Evans*  
*Med Carroll*

JAN 19 2007



**Report Title:**

Land Use; Zoning; Agricultural District

**Description:**

Prohibits counties from permitting uses in the agricultural district other than permissible uses pursuant to section 205-4.5 (land use law; permissible uses in agricultural district).

